

# MARYLAND BOARD OF ACUPUNCTURE

4201 Patterson Avenue

Baltimore, MD 21215

Room 105

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION

MARCH 13, 2018

1:00 p.m.

### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Thomas Ingegno, L.Ac., Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac., RN, Teal Beatty, L.Ac., Sherrie Black, L.Ac., R.N., Esq., Jan Exler, M.Ed., Consumer, Barbara Heller, Ed.D., R.N., Consumer

### **BOARD MEMBERS LATE:**

Sheryl Hongsermeier, L.Ac.,

### **BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Peter Marinakis, L.Ac., Ph.D.

### **BOARD STAFF PRESENT:**

Penny Heisler, Executive Director, Cynthia Dobbins, Administrative Officer, Danielle Vallone, Investigator and David Finkler, AAG

### **GUESTS:**

Sharon Bloom, MDH and David Blaiwas, L.Ac., Maryland Acupuncture Society

## **CALL TO ORDER AND ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUORUM**

### **APPROVAL OF JANUARY 9, 2018 MINUTES**

After review of the Minutes, Ms. Beatty moved to approve the Minutes as written and Mr. Exler seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the Minutes as written.

## **1. OLD BUSINESS**

### **A. SCOPE OF PRACTICE**

Mr. Ingegno read an email from Dr. Marinakis who could not attend the meeting. Dr. Marinakis requested that the Board form a committee to determine whether dry needling is equivalent to Ashi style acupuncture and is within the Board's purview. He also requested that the Scope of Practice Committee continue the discussion of adding injection therapy, lab and blood work to the Board's regulations to keep pace with current acupuncture/OM curriculum and the biomedicine and foundations of Oriental Medicine exams given by the NACCOAM. Tom Ingegno and Sherrie Black volunteered to sit on the Committee.

### **B. DRY NEEDLING**

Mr. Ingegno stated that he attended a meeting between the Secretary of Health and the Board Chairs of Physical Therapy and Chiropractic Examiners. Secretary Neall scheduled the meeting

to resolve the concerns of the Acupuncture Board regarding physical therapists advertising and performing acupuncture services and to determine the effective date of the dry needling regulation.

Secretary Neall offered October 1, 2018 as a compromise date for the regulation. He felt that this would be sufficient time for the Physical Therapy Board to enact its registration process. Mr. Ingegno recommended to the Secretary that a moratorium be placed on the practice of dry needling until the regulations are in place and to ensure that physical therapists are credentialed and the public is protected. The Secretary disagreed and said that there will be no moratorium.

The Secretary addressed the Acupuncture Board's concerns on physical therapists advertising and or performing acupuncture services. He said that the three boards should come up with an educational brochure for the public. He suggested that the Acupuncture Board write a letter to the individuals advertising acupuncture as a subtle warning and forward the advertisement to the proper board as a complaint.

Secretary Neall said that he believes that Boards have the authority to determine their own scope of practice and its expansion as along licensees have been adequately trained in the specific procedure. Mr. Blaiwas asked whether there was a copy of the Minutes of the meeting. Ms. Heisler said that she would inquire.

Mr. Blaiwas formally requested that the Board form a Committee to research and determine whether dry needling is within the Board's scope of practice, as well as injection therapy, lab and blood work.

The Board asked Ms. Heisler to draft a letter to the Chiropractic Board to inquire on the status of drafting dry needling regulations.

## **2. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. MEETING AT THE MARYLAND UNIVERSITY OF INTEGRATIVE HEALTH (MUIH)**

Ms. Heisler stated that she and Mr. Ingegno visited the University's President, Steve Combs, on January 29 to re-establish communication with the school. Dr. Combs was receptive to the visit.

### **B. PATIENT SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK**

Dr. Heller wanted to publicly note in the Minutes that it was Patient Safety Awareness Week.

Ms. Hongersmeier moved to close the meeting at 2:05 PM to go into Administrative Session in accordance with the Maryland Open Meetings Act § 3-305(b)(2) "To protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business" and Ms Beatty seconded the motion. The Board unanimously approved the motion

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 PM.